

A NEW SPECIES OF *EUGENIA* L., MYRTACEAE, FROM SEITHUR HILLS,  
TAMIL NADU, INDIA<sup>1</sup>

(With one text-figure)

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**Key words:** *Eugenia seithurensis* sp. nov., southern Western Ghats, Tamil Nadu

A new species of *Eugenia*, from southern Western Ghats Tamil Nadu, India, is described and illustrated.

INTRODUCTION

Seithur hills in Virudhunagar district (formerly Kamarajar district), Tamil Nadu in southern Western Ghats is one of the richest areas in biodiversity. Botanical explorations in this hilly terrain were conducted in early 1970s by one of us (SRS). During these surveys a member of the Family Myrtaceae was collected in a shola forest, which was misidentified as *Eugenia discifera* Gamble and deposited at MH. When *E. discifera* was later collected by one of us (RG) in the Agasthiyamalai (Pothigai) hills, Tirunelveli district, it did not match with the earlier determined *E. discifera* referred to above. On critical study of the specimen, it was found that it was not *E. discifera* and that it was an undescribed species, which is described and illustrated herewith.

***Eugenia seithurensis* Gopalan &  
S.R. Sriniv. sp. nov.**

*E. calcadensis* Bedd. affinis, sed foliis obovatis, ad apicem abrupte acuminatis (acumine *c.* 3 mm longo); floribus axillaribus (solitariis vel binatis) vel terminaliter umbellatis; pedicellis 4-8 mm longis; stylo glabro; fructibus globosis differt.

Allied to *E. calcadensis* Bedd. but differs in leaves being obovate, abruptly acuminate (acumen *c.* 3 mm long) at apex; flowers axillary (solitary or in pairs) or in terminal umbels; pedicels 4-8 mm long, style glabrous; fruits globose.

Tree, up to 10 m tall; branches and branchlets terete, glabrous, lenticellate. Leaves opposite, simple; petioles 3-7 mm long, glabrous, rounded beneath, canaliculate above; lamina obovate, 3.2-5.4 x 2.9-3.5 cm, coriaceous, glabrous, punctate on both surfaces, attenuate at base, entire and recurved along margins, abruptly acuminate (acumen *c.* 3 mm long) at apex. Flowers axillary (solitary or in pairs) or in terminal 4-8-flowered umbels or cymes, bisexual, actinomorphic; pedicels stout, 4-8 mm long, hirsute; bract 1, linear-lanceolate or lanceolate-elliptic, *c.* 5 mm long, hirsute; bracteoles 2, linear-lanceolate, *c.* 3 mm long, hirsute. Calyx tube campanulate, 2-3 mm long, appressedly brown silky hairy; lobes 4 (2 + 2), subequal; outer sepals smaller, broadly ovate, 2.5-3.5 x 3-4 mm, thick, sparsely hairy, ciliate along margins, concave; the inner orbicular to suborbicular, 3-5 x 4-5 mm, punctate, sparsely hairy, broad at base, ciliate along margins, truncate or rounded at apex. Petals 4, obovate or elliptic-oblong, *c.* 11 x 7 mm, thick in middle, membranous along periphery, punctate, ciliate along margins above 1/3, obtuse at apex. Stamens many; filaments 4-10 mm long, glabrous; anthers globose, 2-loculed, basifixed. Ovary inferior, obconic,

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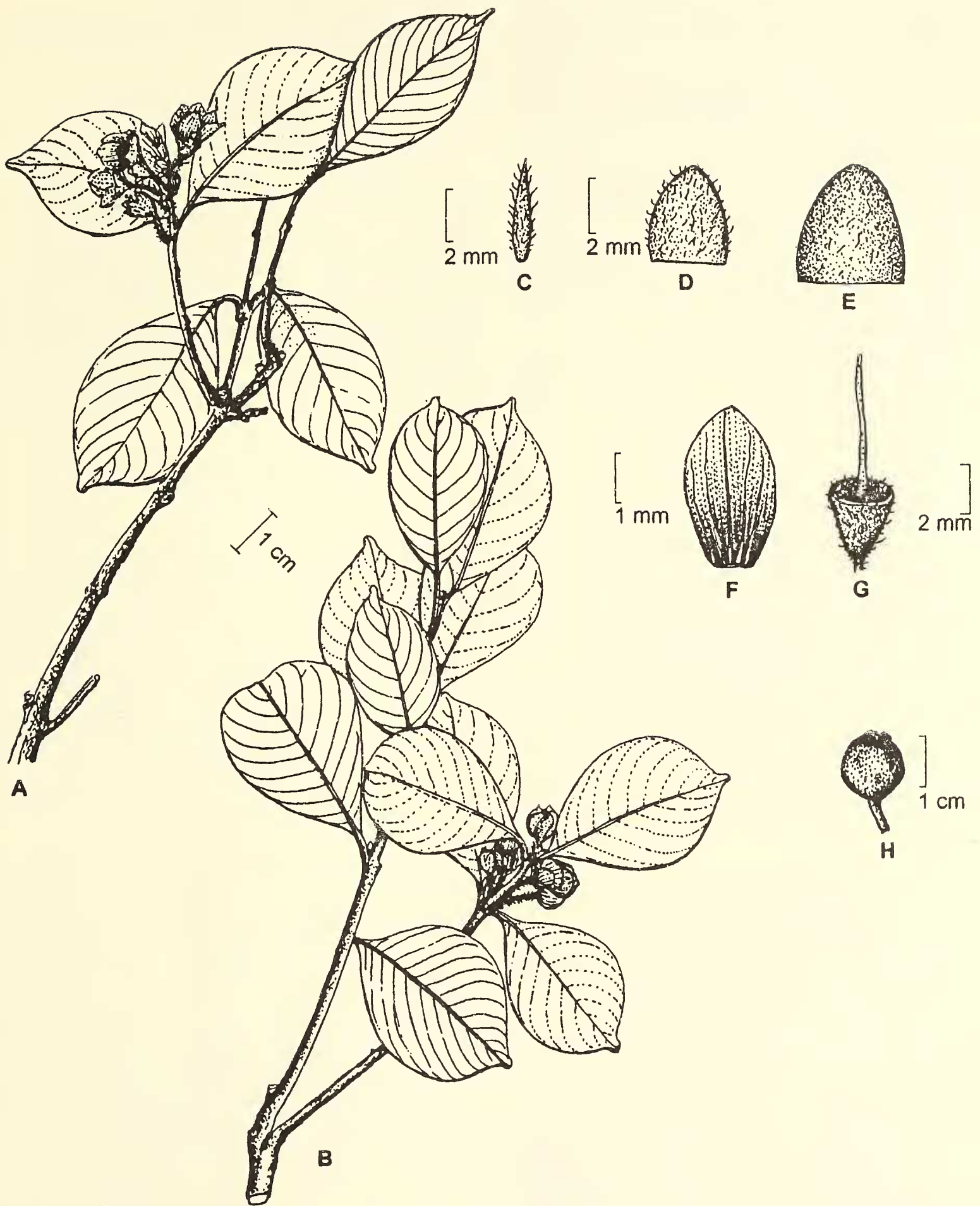


Fig. 1: *Eugenia seithurensis* sp. nov., A-B. Twigs with terminal inflorescence & axillary flowers, C. Bracteole, D. Outer sepal, E. Inner sepal, F. Petal, G. Pistil, H. Fruit

NEW DESCRIPTIONS

appressedly hairy, 2-3 (-4) mm long; style 5-7 mm long, thick, glabrous; stigma simple. Disc hairy. Fruits globose, *c.* 2 cm, crowned with persistent calyx lobes; seeds globose, *c.* 1.4 cm.

Holotype (S.R. Srinivasan 63532, CAL), isotypes (S.R. Srinivasan 63532, MH — acc. no. 120279 - 120283) and paratype (S.R. Srinivasan 65986, MH — acc. no. 120285 - 120292) were collected in between Deviar Estate and forest border of Kerala, Seithur Hills, Virudhunagar district, Tamil Nadu, at about 1,350 m above msl on June 12, 1979.

Rather rare in sholas, only a few trees were seen.

**Fl. & Fr.:** April-October.

**Etymology:** This species is named after the type locality.

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